

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/743,693

Applicant(s)

ALLEN ET AL.

Examiner

Ehud Gartenberg

Art Unit

3746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/22/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-9,11-16,19 and 20.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date Fig. 5 only EB
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 12/23/2003
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Patrick Rasche on 4/4/2005. The cancellation of claims 10 and 18 was authorized by Robert Reeser in a later separate interview on 4/4/2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Figure 5 was amended as per the attached drawing to include numeral 174 (the locking or sealing wire in slot 170).

Claims 2, 10, 17, and 18 have been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

On l. 10 of the claim, "fairing at" has been changed to -- fairing said at --.

On l. 11 of the claim, "rather being" has been changed to -- rather than being --.

On l. 12 of the claim, "strut." Has been changed to -- strut;

wherein said providing at least one fairing comprises forming a parting line extending through the fairing between the fairing first and second sidewalls such that

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the fairing is divided into a forward fairing portion and an aft fairing portion that are axially removable and coupled together. --

Claim 3 has been amended as follows: on l. 1 of the claim, "Claim 2" has been changed to -- Claim 1--.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows: on l. 1 of the claim, "Claim 2" has been changed to -- Claim 1--.

Claim 5 has been amended as follows: on l. 1 of the claim, "Claim 2" has been changed to -- Claim 1--.

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

On l. 1 of the claim, "for use" has been changed to -- used --.

On l. 7 of the claim, "removably" has been changed to -- axially removable and --.

On l. 7 of the claim, "together." Has been changed to -- together;

wherein said parting line is defined as a tongue and groove joint within at least a portion of said least one partition. --

Claim 14 has been amended as follows:

On l. 5 of the claim, "configured to be" has been deleted.

On l. 12 of the claim, "removably" has been changed to -- axially removable

and --.

On I. 13 of the claim, "together." Has been changed to -- together;

wherein said at least one parting line extends at least partially through each of said fairing partition opposing ends, such that a coupling joint is at least partially defined within each of said opposing ends, said parting line being defined by a tongue and groove joint. --

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 3-9, 11-16, 19-20 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claim 1 was allowed because prior art does not teach in combination with the other limitations of the claim a method for assembling a gas turbine engine comprising providing a fairing formed as an integral piece, forming the (radial) parting line, and the subsequent coupling of the two parts. Claims 6 and ^{14 EF}~~20~~ (product by process) were allowed because prior art does not teach in combination with the other limitations of the claims the tongue in groove joint at the partition that forms the two parts of the fairing. Note that the closest prior art, Vdoviak 4,989,406, shows in Fig. 3 a similar invention (see also col. 5, I. 19 for the strut and II. 51 *et seq.* for the two-parts fairing around the strut), except that regarding the apparatus claims, not only that the tongue in groove joint is not taught, but such a joint is not known to be feasible in thin walled structures such as the wall of a fairing.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Von Benken 5284011, Burke 6193141, Munroe 5224341.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ehud Gartenberg whose telephone number is 571 272 4828. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cheryl Tyler can be reached on 571 272 4834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ehud Gartenberg
Primary Examiner
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